

NOAA

“Protecting Lives and Livelihoods”

NOAA’s VISION

An informed society that uses a comprehensive understanding of the role of the oceans, coasts, and atmosphere in the global ecosystem to make the best social and economic decisions.

NOAA’s MISSION

To understand and predict changes in Earth’s environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation’s economic, social, and environmental needs.

NOAA’s CORE VALUES

*People, Integrity, Excellence, Teamwork, and Ingenuity
Science, Service, and Stewardship*



To the Reader:

I am pleased to present the Budget Summary for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Fiscal Year 2008. As in the past, this summary is designed to provide information in a concise and user-friendly format. We provide these descriptions and data on NOAA's budget and programs for the information of Members of Congress and their staffs, the media, and NOAA's constituents and customers. This summary describes how NOAA supports and enhances the goals of the Commerce Department and the President.

As the stresses upon our natural resources grow, NOAA continues its pursuit to protect lives and livelihoods for all Americans and the Nation. Americans depend on NOAA for a wide variety of services and support, including the local weather forecast, a sustainable supply of quality seafood, the safe transport of millions of tons of waterborne cargo, a safe and vibrant coastline, and detailed research on the climate from the frozen arctic to the depths of the oceans. Through our website at www.noaa.gov, NOAA provides a wealth of knowledge to the general public, as well as to schools, industry, and scientific enterprises.

The past few years have seen a multitude of natural disasters. Wider national recognition of the state of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and continued attention to the phenomenon of global climate change has emerged. The challenges facing the nation are evolving, but so too are the technologies that can help us meet those challenges, create solutions, and produce results.

NOAA is a critical part of our Nation's economy -- its products and services impact the daily lives of every one of our citizens and have economic consequences that significantly affect our Nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In fact, weather and climate-sensitive industries account for 30% of the Nation's GDP directly -- about \$4 trillion of the American economy in 2006. In the commercial aviation community, weather is responsible for approximately two-thirds of air carrier delays at a cost of \$4 billion annually -- \$1.7 billion of which is avoidable with better observations and forecasts. National institutions providing weather, climate, and water services to our citizens contribute an estimated \$20-40 billion each year to their national economies. With integrated and sustained observations of the Earth's physical and biological systems, and the web of science and management which forms the foundation of NOAA exploration and observation missions, we have the opportunity to improve our understanding of the complex interactions taking place on our planet.

The major issues we face today are complex and affect everyone in the world. In order to resolve future problems, we continue to build a NOAA that leverages partnerships and is responsive to constituent concerns. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy has made it clear that new approaches are needed to manage the oceans, and the President's Ocean Action Plan has provided a foundation upon which to build. The future of oceans management will require a sustained effort to improving processes government-wide and implementing a cross-cutting, ecosystems-based approach to management that is focused on making the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes cleaner, healthier and more productive and ensuring that these valuable resources are available for current and future generations to enjoy.

Under the leadership of Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, NOAA remains committed to improving the level of service provided to the American people. Finally and most importantly, we appreciate the support NOAA continues to receive from the members of Congress and our constituents.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Lautenbacher, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere



Organization Chart

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

Exhibit 1 to
DOO 25-5

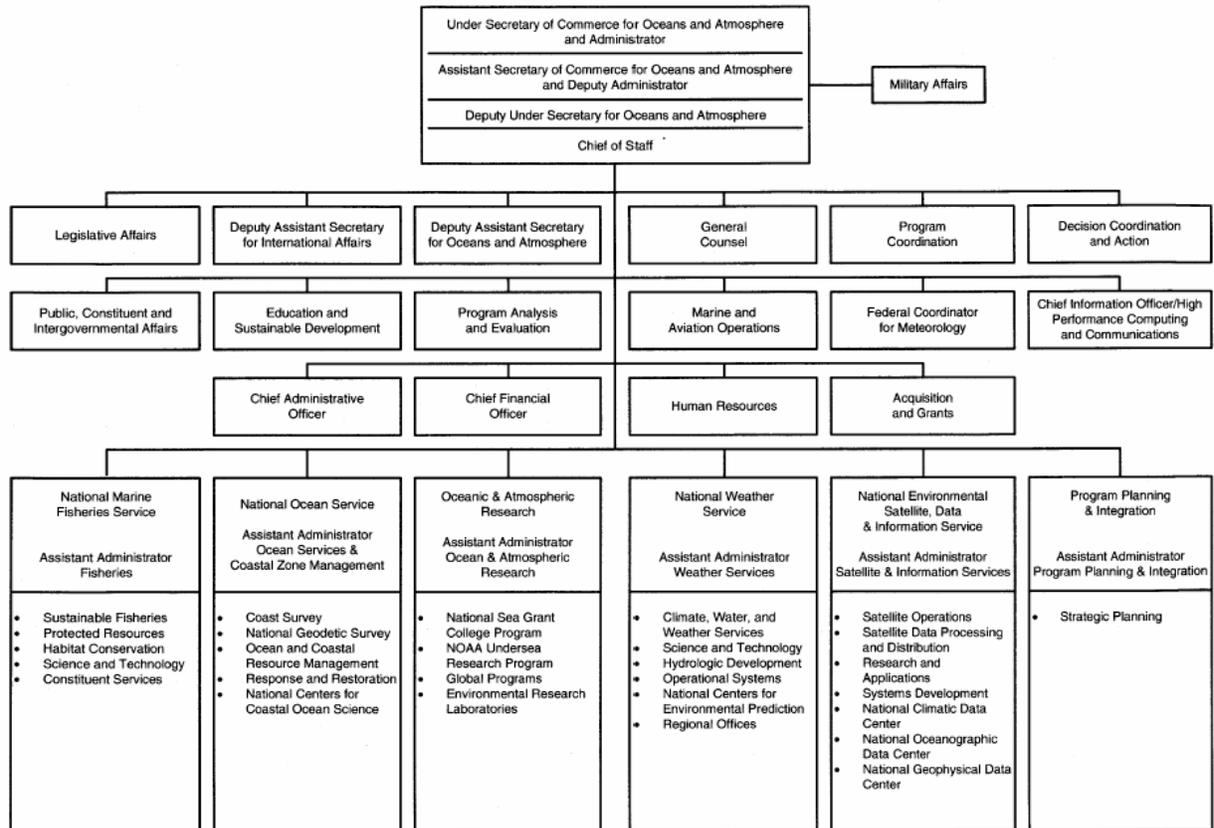




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Introduction

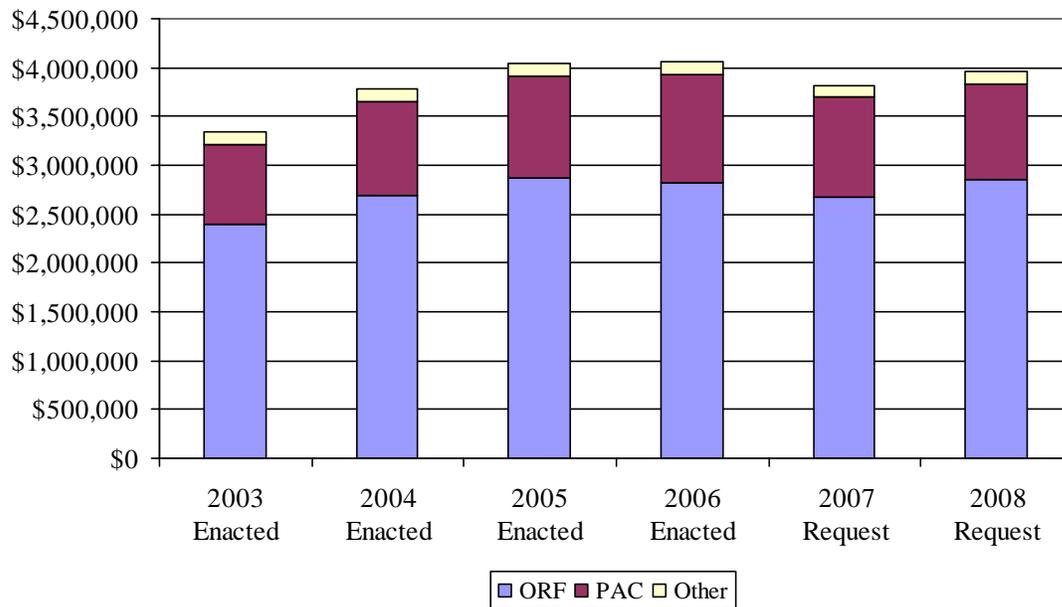


Introduction

(Dollars in Thousands)	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Program Changes	Total Request
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration				
Operations, Research and Facilities	\$2,813,477	\$2,678,843	\$127,765	\$2,854,866
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction	1,119,544	1,026,467	(47,844)	981,893
Other Funds	132,299	115,247	0	120,314
Financing	(153,829)	(136,410)	0	(141,669)
Total Discretionary Appropriation	\$3,911,491	\$3,684,147	\$79,921	\$3,815,404
FTE	11,956	12,029	88	12,046

Budget Trends, FY 2003 - 2008

(Dollars in Thousands)



ORF: Operations, Research, & Facilities
PAC: Procurement, Acquisition, & Construction
Other: Other Accounts



Introduction



In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 President's Budget, the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requests a total of \$3,815,404,000, an increase of \$131,257,000 or 3.4% over the FY 2007 President's Budget. This request reflects NOAA's continuing effort to better serve the American people through advancing mission-critical services. The NOAA staff of dedicated professionals, working with extramural researchers and our international partners are extending our knowledge of climatic change, expanding meteorological prediction capabilities, improving coastal resource management, charting more of our seas and coasts, and enhancing environmental stewardship.

Total requested Adjustments to Base (ATBs) are \$44,915,000. These adjustments focus on maintaining and investing in our workforce and supporting NOAA's most important resource -- our people. NOAA leverages this most valuable asset by applying our people's knowledge, experience, ingenuity, and dedication to the challenges of the 21st century. With this increase, the FY 2008 base level will fund the estimated FY 2008 Federal pay raise of 3.0 percent and annualize the FY 2007 pay raise of 2.2 percent. The base level will provide inflationary increases for non-labor activities, including service contracts, utilities, field office lease payments, and rent charges from the General Services Administration.

Priority Program Change Highlights

NOAA's total requested program changes fall into two categories: Sustaining Critical Operations and priority program changes. The total requested program changes will include investments in four key areas: Supporting the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, Improving Weather Warnings and Forecasts, Climate Monitoring and Research, and finally, Critical Facilities Investments. A summary of the highest priority items in this Budget Summary are highlighted below.



Sustaining Critical Operations

NOAA's core values are people, integrity, excellence, teamwork, ingenuity, science, service, and stewardship. Our ability to serve the nation and accomplish the missions outlined below is determined by the quality of our people and the tools they employ. Our facilities, ships, aircraft, environmental satellites, data-processing systems, computing and communications systems, and our approach to management provide the foundation of support for all of our programs. Approximately \$54.6 million in net increases will support our workforce inflation factors, including \$44.9 million for salaries and benefits and \$6.6 million for non-labor related adjustments such as fuel costs. This year, we focus on the operations and maintenance of NOAA vessels and necessary enhancements to marine safety, facility repair, and modernization. A funding increase of \$8.3 million will be used to support Marine operations and equipment, including \$5.6 million for new vessel operations and maintenance and \$1.7 million to implement a more effective maritime staff rotation and safety enhancements. This funding will support the operations maintenance for the OKEANOS EXPLORER, NOAA's first dedicated Ocean Exploration vessel. Increased funding of \$5.5 million will support operations and maintenance for NOAA's third P-3 aircraft. NOAA is also moving forward this year with increases in funding for unmanned vehicles on both land and sea, with \$0.7 million in support of Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV) and \$3 million in increased funding to support the further use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). With this increase, NOAA will evaluate the benefits and potential of using UAS to collect data crucial for climate models, weather research, fisheries enforcement, and coastal zone studies. Finally, an increase of \$25 million in POES continues support for development and acquisition of polar-orbiting weather satellites to improve weather forecasting and our understanding of the climate. This increase will allow NOAA to complete acquisition of this series of polar satellites and to install and maintain instruments important to U.S. government interests on the MetOp satellite of our European partners.



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1) Supporting the U.S. Ocean Action Plan

Coastal and marine waters support over 28 million jobs, and the value of the ocean economy to the United States is over \$115 billion. The commercial and recreational fishing industries alone add over \$48 billion to the national economy each year. The FY 2008 President's Budget requests \$123 million in increases to support the President's



development of offshore aquaculture and better management of fish harvests. The Administration has proposed legislation to establish clear regulatory authority and permitting processes for offshore aquaculture. An increase of \$3 million is included to establish the regulatory framework to encourage and facilitate development of environmentally sustainable commercial opportunities. In addition, \$20 million in increases are provided to improve management of fish harvests, including \$6.5 million in increases to implement the new and expanded requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, \$3 million for observer programs, and \$6 million for market-based approaches to fisheries management. Market-based approaches—such as Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) that provide exclusive privileges to harvest a quantity of fish—move fisheries management away from cumbersome and inefficient regulatory practices and have been shown to lead to lengthened fishing seasons, improved product quality, and safer conditions for fishermen. The Administration has set a goal of doubling the number of LAPPs in use by the year 2010, and the increased funding of \$6 million for LAPPs in this request supports that goal. Finally, an additional \$2 million in funding is also provided to meet the management challenges of assessing and mitigating the impacts of sound from human activities, such as national defense readiness and energy exploration and development, on marine mammals.



2) Improving Weather Warnings and Forecasts

Severe weather events cause \$11 billion in damages and approximately 7,000 weather-related fatalities yearly in the United States. Nearly one-third of the economy is sensitive to weather and climate. Realizing this, NOAA seeks to provide decision makers with key observations, analyses, predictions, and warnings for a variety of weather and water conditions to help protect the health, life, and property of the U.S. and its economy. Increased funding of \$2 million will accelerate research into improving hurricane intensity forecasts. Another \$3 million in funding will support the operations and maintenance of 15 hurricane data buoys in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean. Finally, NOAA also continues to strengthen the U.S. Tsunami Warning Program with an





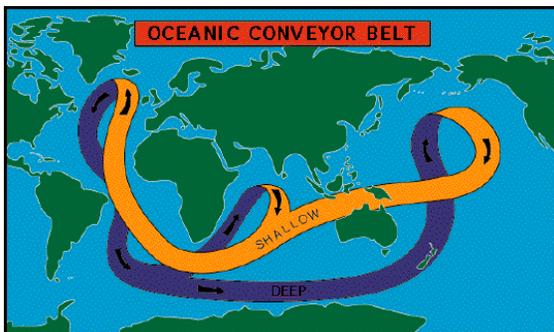
increase of \$1.7 million to deploy additional deep-ocean buoy (DART) stations. Strengthening the U.S. Tsunami Warning Program provides effective, community-based tsunami hazard mitigation actions including required inundation flood mapping, modeling, forecasting efforts and evacuation mapping, and community-based public education/awareness/ preparedness for all U.S. communities at risk.

3) Climate Monitoring and Research

Society exists in a highly variable climate system, and major climatic events can impose serious consequences on society. The 1997-98 El Niño, for example, had a \$25 billion impact on the U.S. economy, with property losses of \$2.6 billion and crop losses approaching \$2 billion. Conditions change over the span of seasons, years, decades, and longer, intersecting with complex interdisciplinary issues ranging from ecosystem and resource management to agriculture, energy production, and responses to extreme weather and climate events. NOAA is building a suite of information, products, and services to enable society to respond to changing climate conditions. We will continue to



expand and improve access to global oceanic and atmospheric data sets for improved climate prediction and development of climate change indicators. NOAA will support the critical National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) with increases of \$4.4 million to develop an integrated drought early warning and forecast system that will



provide earlier and more accurate forecasts of drought conditions. This request also supports the Administration's efforts to create a U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System. With an increase of \$0.9 million, we will support water vapor process research to refine climate models. In support of the Ocean Research Priorities Plan, NOAA will enhance our understanding of the link between ocean

currents and rapid climate change with an increase of \$5 million in support of research on this topic. Finally, an additional \$1 million in funding will provide additional computational support for assessing abrupt climate change.

4) Critical Facilities Investments

NOAA continues to invest in our critical facilities management and modernization efforts, to provide safe and efficient work environment for our employees. Of particular importance this year is the \$3 million funding increase to begin design of a replacement facility at the La Jolla Southwest Fisheries Science Center. NOAA is also requesting \$20.3 million for continued construction of the new Pacific Region Center on Ford Island in Honolulu, HI. This increase in funding will allow NOAA to complete the exterior



renovation of one of the Ford Island buildings, a crucial next step in the construction process.



The program changes highlighted above will be addressed in greater detail in the remaining parts of the FY 2008 NOAA Budget Summary. We hope to build on our prior successes by addressing future challenges through implementing the management, operational, and technical enhancements proposed in this Summary.